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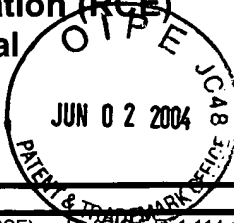
06-03-04

RCE 73672

PTO/SB/30 (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**Request  
for  
Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal**Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Application Number     | 09/509,073          |
| Filing Date            | August 22, 2000     |
| First Named Inventor   | Bernd-Georg Pietras |
| Group Art Unit         | 3672                |
| Examiner Name          | Gay, J.             |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0012.Y1        |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 of the above-identified application.  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. 1.114** Note: if the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the appeal brief or Reply brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Miscellaneous**
- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 20-0782
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

|                   |                             |                                   |             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | William B. Patterson        | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 34,102      |
| Signature         | <i>William B. Patterson</i> | Date                              | 2 June 2004 |

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited on \_\_\_\_\_, with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing label No. EV335469234US addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | William B. Patterson        |
| Signature         | <i>William B. Patterson</i> |
| Date              | 2 June 2004                 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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